

UTILITIES BOARD SAID TO DISAPPROVE CAR LINE MERGER

Members Indicate Scheme May
Not Be "In the Interest of
the Public."

Although the Baltimore capitalists who propose merging the street and interurban electric railways centering in Washington, have not yet consulted the Public Utilities Commission, it was understood at the District Building today that the commission would look with disfavor upon the project.

The members of the commission stated today that they had heard rumors of the proposed merger for several weeks, but the proposition had not been called to their official attention. They indicated that they had heard enough to convince them that the "combination is not in the interest of the public at this time" and that the application when made would be "considered strictly on its merits."

The commission is now engaged in making a valuation on the property of all the Washington corporations included in the contemplated merger, and it was stated definitely today that "nothing will be allowed to interfere with the completion of these valuations."

The Public Utilities Commission members indicated today that they saw in this new proposed merger a move to hinder the valuation work and to accomplish through Baltimore capitalists the advantages of the "Washington Utilities Corporation" could not do several years ago.

Hamilton Not Consulted.

Although the Capital Traction Company is known to be included in the Baltimore capitalists' plans, President George E. Hamilton said today he had not been consulted with regard to the proposed merger. In Washington financial circles it was said today the Capital Traction Company would not consider entering into the proposed deal in any way unless certain valuations which financiers place on the holdings of another public service corporation are materially reduced.

"The Capital Traction Company was never approached on the subject of the merger, so far as I am advised," said President Hamilton. "I had not heard that any such movement was on foot until I read the article in the Times yesterday afternoon. Of course there have been rumors of mergers for years, but I had not been advised of this present plan."

At the District Building it was said the Baltimore capitalists would have to show the Public Utilities Commission that the proposed merger would be of material benefit to the public "to even interest the commission. If the capitalists cannot show in the first instance that the public would get better service and other benefits from the merger, the commission will refuse to entertain the application at the outset, according to well informed persons at the District Building."

Against Fairchild Bill.

The opposition of the commission to the Fairchild bill providing for the consolidation of the Washington Railway and Electric Company and the Potomac Electric Power Company is an indication of its probable attitude towards the proposed merger of the railways.

The merger, which is being sought by the Fidelity Trust Company, of Baltimore, would embrace a consolidation of the Washington Railway and Electric Company, the Potomac Electric Power Company, the Capital Traction Company, the Washington and Old Dominion Railway, the Georgetown and Tenleytown, the Washington and Rockville, and other suburban lines of the Washington Railway and Electric Company.

Engineer Commissioner Kutz, in appearing before the House District Committee at the hearing on the Fairchild bill last week, earnestly opposed the consolidation of the Washington Railway and Electric Company and the Potomac Electric Power Company as inimical to the public interest.

In any event, he urged that the proposed legislation be postponed until the valuations are completed and the new rates established.

Must Have Board's Sanction.

Public utilities are prohibited by the public utilities law from reorganization, consolidation or acquisition of property for such purposes without the consent of the commission. Paragraph 76 of the law provides that "no public utility shall issue any stocks, certificates of stock, bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness secured on its property in the District of Columbia for the purpose of any reorganization or consolidation of indebtedness or consolidation of stocks, certificates of stock, bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness then outstanding against the public utility so reorganizing or consolidating, and no such public utility shall purchase the property of any other public utility for the purpose of effecting a consolidation until the commission shall have determined and set forth in writing that said consolidation will be in the public interest, nor until the consolidation shall have been approved in writing the terms upon which the consolidation shall be made."

Brandeis' Nomination
May Be Again Delayed

Consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee of the report of the subcommittee on the nomination of Louis Brandeis for Supreme Court justice may be further delayed by the prolonged absence of Senator John C. Shields, of Tennessee, on account of the death of his brother Joseph S. Shields, in New York last night.

The deceased was the youngest brother of the Tennessee Senator and was a New York business man. He leaves a widow and daughter, the latter, Miss Josephine Shields, being formally presented to Washington society last winter, when Miss Jeannette Cowan, daughter of Mrs. Shields, made her debut. The body will pass through Washington tonight at 3 o'clock for Knoxville, Tenn., and is centered today over Richmond. It is gradually moving off to the northeast, and the rain is expected to cease by tonight. Tomorrow will be partly cloudy, with a continuation of the cool weather, but no rain is expected.

Rains, Clouds, Chills,
Forecaster Promises

Rain this afternoon, with partly cloudy and cooler weather tonight, is the forecast of the Weather Bureau today. The storm, bringing Washington real April showers today, formed overnight in Virginia, and is centered today over Richmond. It is gradually moving off to the northeast, and the rain is expected to cease by tonight. Tomorrow will be partly cloudy, with a continuation of the cool weather, but no rain is expected.

Terminal Threatened.

Fifty soldiers of the Fourteenth Infantry today were ordered to proceed from Fort Lacombe to Anchorage, Alaska, to guard the Government railway terminal during the strike there.

Von gel's Papers Show German-Jap Plot Here

Agents of Both Governments Aimed to Involve U. S.
and Japan in War—Germany Also Said to Have
Helped Along Mexican Trouble.

NEW YORK, April 25.—With the announcement from Washington yesterday that Attorney General Gregory had advised the State Department not to surrender the papers and letters seized when Wolf von Rintelen was arrested in the former offices of Capt. Franz von Papen, 55 Wall street, it became known that the seized documents furnished the Government authorities with the details of a German plot to stir up trouble between the United States and Japan. The documents are said also to have furnished certain evidence corroborating the reports that Germany was involved in the various Mexican troubles.

Among other things the documents contain reports, written in Japanese, from three Japanese agents in the pay of the German government at Tokyo. These reports, each several thousand words in length, cover the activities of German agents and Japanese agents working for Germany, during the greater part of 1915. They set forth in great detail the work that is being done toward instilling hatred of America in the minds of the Japanese people, and of efforts being made to influence Japanese officials and to induce them to involve their country in difficulties with the United States.

Stirring Anti-Japanese Feeling.

Others of the documents are declared to concern the activities of German agents in the United States, their work among the Japanese in this country, particularly in California, and attempts to stir up anti-Japanese feeling throughout the United States. Various letters and reports dealing with the Mexican situation are also among the documents, and these are said to show that behind much of the trouble in the southern republic was a German gold, dispensed by Franz von Rintelen and other German secret service agents. Some of the letters and

VILLA AGAIN LOCATED; HOPES HERE RENEWED

(Continued from First Page.)

15. latest War Department reports showed today. Since receipts of the messages, however, Pershing probably has received additional supplies, it was said today. The department was advised the Seventeenth Infantry minus the Second battalion, crossed the border at Columbus yesterday.

The horses of General Pershing's advanced column are so fatigued that the whole bulk of them can successfully continue the Villa pursuit.

"I think it would be foolish to start after him unless we were sure, they could sustain a movement," said a high army officer today.

Obregon Seen As Big Man of Mexico

Order Meeting With General
Scott Thought to Indicate War
Minister's Importance.

EL PASO, April 25.—The border meeting arranged between General Scott and War Minister Obregon is believed today to indicate practical acceptance of Carranza's ablest military leader as the chief factor in Mexico. The conference is not expected to open in less than a week.

In the meantime 15,000 United States soldiers under General Pershing will hold the line from Namiquipa to Columbus, N. M.

They will be heavily entrenched at Colonia, Durban and Namiquipa, not because there are 35,000 Carranza soldiers in Chihuahua state, but as a precautionary safety measure.

While the conference between Obregon and Scott was announced for El Paso or Juarez, it is rumored that the meeting may be held at Eagle Pass. Juarez has never been friendly to Obregon. As travel over Mexican railroads is very uncertain, the war minister is not expected to reach the border before next week.

It is believed here that Obregon will come as a virtual dictator of Mexico, with military power to enforce any agreement he makes with Scott regarding the withdrawal or future conduct of the expedition in Mexico.

Mexicans To Be Kept
From Blocking Supplies

SAAN ANTONIO, April 25.—Firm measures were ordered today to prevent Carranzistas in northern Mexico from hindering supply shipments to American troops.

General Funston was said to have dispatched messages to General Pershing ordering him to "maintain the situation." The expeditionary forces have suffered severely as a result of Carranza commanders having seized railroad consignments, General Funston said.

The supply situation will be thoroughly discussed in the conference between Chief of Staff Scott and General Obregon in their meeting at the border. It was expected today, Scott will not leave for the border until the latter part of the week when it is expected Obregon will arrive at the international line.

Headquarters did not know where the conference will be held, but Juarez was deemed a likely meeting place.

Mexican Is Wounded in
Attack on Supply Train

GENERAL PERSHING'S HEADQUARTERS, NEAR NAMIQUEPA, April 25 (via radio to Columbus, N. M.). Reports from the advanced American base, near San Antonio, Mex., received

showed that a Mexican soldier was killed and another wounded in an attack on a supply train.

The attack was made on a supply train consisting of two mule teams and a wagon loaded with supplies, which was being escorted by a detachment of American soldiers.

The Mexican soldier who was killed was a member of the Carranza forces, and the wounded soldier was a member of the American forces.

The attack was made at a point where the supply train was crossing a narrow bridge over a river.

The American soldiers were able to repel the attack and the supply train was able to continue on its way.

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